

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/USOAS-GNMONSMA:BJF

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SGEN, OAS, CI

SUBJECT: CHILE AND INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REF: SANTIAGO 5370

FOLLOWING RECEIVED IN CONFIDENCE AS "RESERVED INFORMATION"
IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR ROBERT F. WOODWARD,
U.S. CITIZEN WHO SERVES IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY ON THE
INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

DR. LUIS REQUE, WHO VISITED CHILE WITH CONSENT OF CHILEAN
GOVERNMENT JUST PRIOR TO RECENT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION
IN CALI, COLOMBIA, MADE A DETAILED REPORT TO THE
COMMISSION. IN CONTRAST TO PRESS ARTICLE REFERRED TO IN
PARAGRAPH 3 OF REFTEL, DR. REQUE'S REPORT WAS NOT REPEAT
NOT CHARACTERIZED BY AMBASSADOR WOODWARD AS "FAVORABLE"
EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT DR. REQUE INDICATED CHILEAN
AUTHORITIES HAD COOPERATED BY LETTING HIM OBSERVE WHATEVER
HE WISHED TO OBSERVE. (WE NOTE THAT MANUEL BIANCHI, CITED
IN REFTEL AS SOURCE FOR PRESS VERSION, IS CHILEAN CITIZEN.)
DR. REQUE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN MISSING PERSONS,
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FOREIGN PERSONS IN CHILE AND EXECUTIONS.

THE COMMISSION IN ITS CALI MEETING, MINDFUL THAT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT PRIOR TO THE MEETING HAD INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS SEEKING INFORMATION, SENT TWO QUESTIONNAIRES TO CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. ONE WAS SENT BY

TELEGRAM REQUESTING AN ANSWER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND ASKING SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT NUMBER OF EXECUTIONS, TORTURE AND TREATMENT OF FOREIGNERS. THE OTHER QUESTIONNAIRE SENT BY MAIL OR BY HAND OF ONE OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS ASKED ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS PLANS, INQUIRING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT DECREES PASSED, GENERAL GUARANTEES, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND TREATMENT OF PRISONERS. WHEN RESPONSE IS RECEIVED FROM CHILEAN GOVERNMENT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION WILL, IF WARRANTED, CONSULT COMMISSION MEMBERS. IF THEY BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO GO TO CHILE, THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ASKED FOR ITS CONSENT FOR THE WHOLE COMMISSION, NOT JUST A SUBCOMMISSION, TO COME TO CHILE. AMBASSADOR WOODWARD BELIEVES THERE IS 50-50 CHANCE COMMISSION WILL BE GOING TO CHILE IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER.

AMBASSADOR WOODWARD EMPHASIZED FOREGOING IS "RESERVED INFORMATION". MEMOS OF CONVERSATION FOLLOW BY POUCH.

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